

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 3, 4, 6-10, 12, 13, and 15-19, and CANCEL claims 2, 5, 11, and 14 without prejudice in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A record and playback apparatus which codes information and records said information which is coded in a recording medium, wherein:  
~~said information is recorded at a variable bit rate; and~~  
said record and playback apparatus stores, in at least onea predetermined management FAT entry in a FAT area provided in said recording medium, management information including time information on a time when said information is recorded, index information which can be assigned to a recording unit, and a backward pointer for connecting recording units in a backward direction.
2. (CANCELLED)
3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The A record and playback apparatus as claimed in claim 1, which codes information and records said information which is coded in a recording medium, wherein:  
~~said record and playback apparatus stores predetermined management area storing said management information is an in at least one management area,~~ provided separately from a FAT area, corresponding to a FAT entry in said FAT area provided in said recording medium,  
wherein said management information includes time information on a time when said information is recorded, index information which can be assigned to a recording unit, and a backward pointer for connecting recording units in a backward direction.
4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The record and playback apparatus as claimed in ~~claim 1~~claim 3, wherein said ~~predetermined management area storing said management information is an area provided separately from a FAT area, and said predetermined management area is provided for each of said time information, said index information, and said~~

backward pointer.

5. (CANCELLED)

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The record and playback apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

~~said management information includes said time information; and~~

said record and playback apparatus comprises a control part which causes said record and playback apparatus to perform playback operation from a recording unit corresponding to a time specified from the outside by comparing said time with said time information.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The record and playback apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

~~said management information includes said time information; and~~

said record and playback apparatus includes a control part which causes said record and playback apparatus to perform playback operation including recording units corresponding to a time interval specified from the outside by comparing said time interval with said time information.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The record and playback apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

~~said management information includes said index information; and~~

said record and playback apparatus includes a control part which causes said record and playback apparatus to perform playback operation including a recording unit corresponding to a specified index information specified from the outside by comparing said specified index information with said index information.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The record and playback apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

~~said management information includes said backward pointer; and~~

said record and playback apparatus includes a control part which causes said record and playback apparatus to perform playback operation from a recording unit indicated by a specified backward pointer specified from the outside by comparing said specified backward pointer with said backward pointer.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A record and playback method ~~for coding that codes~~ information and ~~recording records~~ said information which is coded in a recording medium in a record and playback apparatus, said record and playback method comprising:

~~recording said information at a variable bit rate; and~~

performing playback operation according to management information stored in a ~~predetermined management~~ at least one FAT entry in a FAT area provided in said recording medium, said management information including time information on a time when said information is recorded, index information which can be assigned to a recording unit, and a backward pointer for connecting recording units in a backward direction.

11. (CANCELLED)

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The A~~ record and playback method ~~as claimed in claim 10, that codes information and records said information that is coded in a recording medium in a record and playback apparatus, said record and playback method comprising:~~

~~wherein said predetermined management area storing said management information is an in at least one management area, provided separately from a FAT area, corresponding to a FAT entry in said FAT area provided in said recording medium,~~

wherein said management information includes time information on a time when said information is recorded, index information which can be assigned to a recording unit, and a backward pointer for connecting recording units in a backward direction.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The record and playback method as claimed in ~~claim 40~~ claim 12, wherein said ~~predetermined management area storing said management information is an area provided separately from a FAT area, and said predetermined management area is provided for each of said time information, said index information, and said backward pointer.~~

14. (CANCELLED)

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The record and playback method as claimed in claim 10, ~~wherein said management information includes said time information, said record and playback method further comprising:~~

controlling said record and playback apparatus to perform playback operation from a recording unit corresponding to a time specified from the outside by comparing said time with said time information.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The record and playback method as claimed in claim 10, ~~wherein said management information includes said time information; said record and playback method further comprising:~~

controlling said record and playback apparatus to perform to perform playback operation including recording units corresponding to a time interval specified from the outside by comparing said time interval with said time information.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The record and playback method as claimed in claim 10, ~~wherein said management information includes said index information; said record and playback method further comprising:~~

controlling said record and playback apparatus to perform playback operation including a recording unit corresponding to a specified index information specified from the outside by comparing said specified index information with said index information.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The record and playback method as claimed in claim 10, ~~wherein said management information includes said backward pointer; said record and playback method further comprising:~~

controlling said record and playback apparatus to perform playback operation from a recording unit indicated by a specified backward pointer specified from the outside by comparing said specified backward pointer with said backward pointer.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of recording coded information on a recording medium having ~~a management area~~ at least one FAT entry in a FAT area provided in said recording medium, comprising:

recording information on the recording medium at a first time, the information corresponding to a recording unit; ~~and the information being recorded at a variable bit rate;~~

storing time information of the first time in the ~~management~~ FAT area;

storing index information assigned to a recording unit, in the ~~management~~ FAT area; and

storing a backward pointer connecting a plurality of the recording units, in the ~~management~~ FAT area.

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 19, wherein the recording of information, the storing of time information, the storing of index information, and the storing of the backward pointer occur in sequence.